WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating a subject suffering from a viral infection that is mediated by endogenous host serine protease (SP) or SP-like activity, which comprises administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a substance exhibiting mammalian α_1-antitrypsin (AAT) or AAT-like activity.

2. The method of claim 1 in which the substance comprises AAT.

3. The method of claim 2 in which the AAT is isolated from a human plasma or a transgenic mammalian source.

4. The method of claim 2 in which the AAT is isolated from a culture of wild type, mutant, or transformed cells.

5. The method of claim 2 in which the therapeutically effective amount of the AAT falls in the range of about 10 ng per ml to about 30 mg per ml of biologic fluid of the mammalian subject.

6. The method of claim 2 in which the AAT exhibits inhibitory activity versus control in an assay comprising IL-18-induced human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) production.

7. The method of claim 2 in which the AAT exhibits inhibitory activity versus control in at least one of an assay comprising IL-6, TNF, LPS, or TNF-induced human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) production.

8. The method of claim 1 in which the substance is (benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-trifluoromethylbenzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl)carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(2-phenylethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl)carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; (benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(2-methoxybenzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl)carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; (benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(trifluoromethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl)carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; (benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(methyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl)carbonyl)-2-(S)-Methylpropyl]-L-Prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-Valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(difluoromethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl) carbonyl)-2-(S)-Methylpropyl]-L-Prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-Valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(benzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl)carbonyl)-2-(S)-Methylpropyl]-L-Prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-Valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-methoxybenzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl)carbonyl)-2-(S)-Methylpropyl]-L-Prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-Valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(2,6-difluorobenzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl)carbonyl)-2-(S)-Methylpropyl]-L-Prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-Valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(trans-styryl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl)carbonyl)-2-(S)-Methylpropyl]-L-Prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-Valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(trans-4-Trifluoro methylstyryl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl)carbonyl)-2-(S)-Methylpropyl]-L-Prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-Valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(trans-4-Methoxystyryl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl)carbonyl)-2-(S)-Methylpropyl]-L-Prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-Valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-Thienylmethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl)carbonyl)-2-(S)-Methylpropyl]-L-Prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-Valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(Phenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl)carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; and (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-Valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-Phenylpropyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl)carbonyl)-2-(S)-Methylpropyl]-L-Prolinamide, Benzyloxycarbonyl-L-valyl-N-[1-(2-[5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl] carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide, Benzyloxycarbonyl-L-valyl-N-[1-(2-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; Benzyloxycarbonyl-L-valyl-N-[1-(2-(5-(methyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)- 2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-trifluoromethylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(2-(5-(4-Dimethylamino

benzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(2-(5-(1-napthylenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-[1-(3-(5-(3,4-methylenedioxybenzyl)-1,2,4 -oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(3,5-dimethylbenzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(3,5-dimethoxybenzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(3,5-ditrifluoromethylbenzyl)-1,2,4 -oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl] carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(biphenylmethine)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(4-phenylbenzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl] carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-phenylbenzyl)-1,2,4- oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-phenoxybenzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(cyclohexylmethylene)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-trifluoromethyldimethylmethylene)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(1-napthylmethylene)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-pyridylmethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(3,5-diphenylbenzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(4-dimethylaminobenzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide; 2-(5-[(Benzyloxycarbonyl)amino]-6-oxo-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1,6-dihydro-1-pyrimidinyl]-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-trifluoromethylbenzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)- (S)-2-methylpropyl]acetamide; 2-(5-Amino-6-oxo-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1,6-dihydro-1-pyrimidinyl]-N-[1-(3-(5- (3-trifluoromethylbenzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide;

2-(5-[(Benzyloxycarbonyl)amino]-6-oxo-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1,6-dihydro-1-pyrimidinyl]-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-(S)-2-methylpropyl]acetamide; 2-(5-Amino-6-oxo-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1,6-dihydro-1-pyrimidinyl]-N-[1-(2-(5- (3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-methylpropyl]acetamide; (Pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-N-(benzyl)glycyl-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]amide; (Pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-N-(benzyl)glycyl-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-trifluoromethylbenzyl)]-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl)-(S)-methylpropyl]amide; (2S,5S)-5-Amino-1,2,4,5,6,7-hexahydroazepino-[3,2,1]-indole-4-one-carbonyl -N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-(R,S)-2-methylpropyl]amide; BTD-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]amide; (R,S)-3-Amino-2-oxo-5-phenyl-1,4,-benzodiazepine-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzy l)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-2-L-(2,3-dihydro-1H-indole)-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]amide; (Benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-valyl-2-L-(2,3-dihydro-1H-indole)-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-trifluoromethylbenzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]amide; Acetyl-2-L-(2,3-dihydro-1H-indole)-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]amide; 3-(S)-(Benzyloxycarbonyl)amino)-ε-lactam-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzy l)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 3-(S)-(Amino)-ε-lactam-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide trifluoroacetic acid salt; 3-(S)-[(4-morpholino carbonyl-butanoyl)amino]-ε-lactam-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(R,S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 6-[4-Fluorophenyl]-ε-lactam-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 2-(2-(R,S)-Phenyl-4-oxothiazolidin-3-yl]-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4 -oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 2-(2-(R,S)-phenyl-4-oxothiazolidin-3-yl]-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4 -oxadiazolyl]hydroxymethyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 2-(2-(R,S)-Benzyl-4-oxothiazolidin-3-yl]-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4 -oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-acetamide; 2-(2-(R,S)-Benzyl-4-oxothiazolidin-3-yl oxide]-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-trifluoromethylbenzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2- (R,S,)-methylpropyl]acetamide; (1-

Benzoyl-3,8-quinazolinedione)-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; (1-Benzoyl-3,6-piperazinedione)-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; (1-Phenyl-3,6-piperazinedione)-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; [(1-Phenyl-3,6-piperazinedione)-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-trifluoromethylbenzyl)-1,2,4 -oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)]-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 3-[(Benzyloxycarbonyl)amino]-quinolin-2-one-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 3-[(Benzyloxycarbonyl)amino]-7-piperidinyl-quinolin-2-one-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 3-(Carbomethoxy-quinolin-2-one-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methybenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazoly l]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 3-(Amino-quinolin-2-one)-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 3-[(4-Morpholino)aceto]amino-quinolin-2-one-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1, 3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 3,4-Dihydro-quinolin-2-one-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 1-Acetyl-3-(4-fluorobenzylidene) piperazine-2,5-dione-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 1-Acetyl-3-(4-dimethylamino benzylidene)piperazine-2,5-dione-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 1-Acetyl-3-(4-carbomethoxy benzylidene)piperazine-2,5-dione-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 1-Acetyl-3-[(4-pyridyl)methylene]piperazine-2,5-dione-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methyl benzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 4-[1-Benzyl-3-(R)-benzyl-piperazine-2,5,-dione]-N-[1-(2 -[5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 4-[1-Benzyl-3-(S)-benzyl piperazine-2,5,-dione]-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 4-[1-Benzyl-3(R)-benzylpiperazine-2,5,-dione]-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-trifluoromethylbenzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 4-[1-Benzyl-3-(S)-benzylpiperazine-2,5,-dione]-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-trifluoromethylbenzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 4-[1-Benzyl-

3-(S)-benzyl piperazine-2,5,-dione]-N-[1-(3-(5-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 4-[1-Methyl-3-(R,S)-phenylpiperazine-2,5,-dione]-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-trifluoromethylbenzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 4-[[-Methyl-3-(R,S)-phenyl piperazine-2,5,-dione]-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 4-[1-(4-Morpholino ethyl)3-(R)-benzyl piperazine-2,5,-dione]-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 5-(R,S)-Phenyl-2,4-imidazolidinedione-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 5-(R)-Benzyl-2,4-imidazolidinedione-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 5-(S)-Benzyl-2,4-imidazolidinedione-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 5-(S)-Benzyl-2,4-imidazolidinedione-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-trifluoromethylbenzyl)-1 ,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 5-(R)-Benzyl-2,4-imidazolidinedione-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-trifluoromethylbenzyl)-1 ,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; 1-Benzyl-4-(R)-benzyl-2,5-imidazolidinedione-N-[1-(2-(5-(3-methylbenzyl)-1 ,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide; and 1-Benzyl-4-(R)-benzyl-2,5-imidazolidinedione-N-[1-(3-(5-(3-trifluoromethyl benzyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]acetamide, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or combinations thereof.

9. A method of inhibiting in a mammal the spread or onset of a viral infection that is mediated by endogenous host serine protease (SP) or SP-like activity, which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a substance exhibiting mammalian α_1-antitrypsin (AAT) or AAT-like activity to a mammalian subject exposed or at risk of potential exposure to an agent of a viral infection that is mediated by endogenous SP or SP-like activity.

10. The method of claim 9 in which the agent comprises a retrovirus.

11. The method of claim 9 in which the agent comprises HIV.

12. The method of claim 9 in which the substance comprises a peptide exhibiting a binding affinity for the serpin-enzyme complex (SEC) receptor.

13. The method of claim 9 in which the substance comprises a peptide including at least five amino acid residues comprising the C-terminal sequences of mammalian AAT, analogues of such a peptide, or homologues thereof.

14. The method of claim 9 in which the substance comprises a peptide selected from FVFLM (SEQUENCE ID NO. 1), FVFAM (SEQUENCE ID NO. 2), FVALM (SEQUENCE ID NO. 3), FVFLA (SEQUENCE ID NO. 4), FLVFI (SEQUENCE ID NO. 5), FLMII (SEQUENCE ID NO. 6), FLFVL (SEQUENCE ID NO. 7), FLFVV (SEQUENCE ID NO. 8), FLFLI (SEQUENCE ID NO. 9), FLFFI (SEQUENCE ID NO. 10), FLMFI (SEQUENCE ID NO. 11), FMLLI (SEQUENCE ID NO. 12), FIIMI (SEQUENCE ID NO. 13), FLFCI (SEQUENCE ID NO. 14), FLFAV (SEQUENCE ID NO. 15), FVYLI (SEQUENCE ID NO. 16), FAFLM (SEQUENCE ID NO. 17), AVFLM (SEQUENCE ID NO. 18), or mixtures thereof.

15. The method of claim 9 in which the substance can be represented by a peptide of a general formula (I): I-A-B-C-D-E-F-G-H-II, wherein I is Cys or absent; A is Ala, Gly, Val or absent; B is Ala, Gly, Val, Ser or absent; C is Ser, Thr or absent; D is Ser, Thr, Ans, Glu, Arg, Ile, Leu or absent; E is Ser, Thr, Asp or absent; F is Thr, Ser, Asn, Gln, Lys, Trp or absent; G is Tyr or absent; H is Thr, Gly, Met, Met(O), Cys, Thr or Gly; and II is Cys, an amide group, substituted amide group, an ester group or absent, wherein said peptide comprises at least 4 amino acids and physiologically acceptable salts thereof.

16. The method of claim 9 in which the substance comprises a compound selected from substituted oxadiazole, thiadiazole, triazole peptoids, or mixtures thereof.

17. The method of claim 16 in which the substance is benzyloxycarbonyl-L-valyl-N-[1-(2-(3-methylbenzyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl]carbonyl)-2-(S)-methylpropyl]-L-prolinamide or derivative thereof.

18. The method of claim 9 in which the substance comprises substituted heterocyclic compounds, or mixtures thereof.

19. The method of claim 9 in which the substance comprises N-substituted derivatives, or mixtures thereof.

20. The method of claim 9 in which the substance comprises keto and di-keto containing ring systems, or mixtures thereof.

21. The method of claim 9 in which the substance comprises tripeptoid analogues, or mixtures thereof.

22. The method of claim 9 in which the substance comprises proline analogues, or mixtures thereof.

23. The method of claim 9 in which the subject is a pregnant female.

24. The method of claim 9 in which the substance comprises a compound that inhibits proteinase-3, elastase, eglin, thrombin, cathepsin G, chymotrypsin, plasminogen activator, and plasmin.

25. The method of claim 15 in which the therapeutically effective amount of the peptide falls in the range of about 1 ng per ml to about 30 mg per ml of biologic fluid of the mammalian subject.

26. The method of claim 15 in which the therapeutically effective amount of the compound falls in the range of about 1 nM per ml to about 10 mM per ml of biologic fluid of the mammalian subject.

27. A method of treating a patient with a deficiency of functional endogenous AAT levels and suffering from a viral infection that is mediated by an endogenous host serine protease (SP) or SP-like activity, which comprises administering to such a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a substance exhibiting mammalian α_1-antitrypsin (AAT) or AAT-like activity.

28. A method of treating a subject suffering from a viral infection that is mediated at least in part by serine protease activity, comprising:

administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a substance exhibiting mammalian α_1-antitrypsin (AAT) or AAT-like activity.

29. A method of inhibiting HIV replication in a subject harboring HIV which comprises administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a substance exhibiting a binding affinity to a ligand binding domain of a SEC receptor.

30. A method of treating a subject suffering from a pathological condition that is mediated by endogenous serine protease (SP) or SP-like activity, which comprises administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a substance exhibiting mammalian α_1-antitrypsin (AAT) or AAT-like activity.

31. The method of claim 30 in which the pathological condition is selected from viral infections.

32. The method of claim 30 in which the pathological condition is selected from the group consisting of fibrosarcoma, myxosarcoma, liposarcoma, chondrosarcoma, osteogenic

sarcoma, chordoma, angiosarcoma, endotheliosarcoma, lymphangiosarcoma, lymphangioendotheliosarcoma, synovioma, mesothelioma, Ewing's tumor, leiomyosarcoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, rhabdosarcoma, colorectal carcinoma, pancreatic cancer, breast cancer, ovarian cancer, prostate cancer, melanoma, squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, sweat gland carcinoma, sebaceous gland carcinoma, papillary carcinoma, papillary adenocarcinomas, cystadenocarcinoma, medullary carcinoma, bronchogenic carcinoma, renal cell carcinoma, hepatoma, bile duct carcinoma, choriocarcinoma, seminoma, embryonal carcinoma, Wilms' tumor, cervical cancer, testicular tumor, lung carcinoma, small cell lung carcinoma, bladder carcinoma, epithelial carcinoma, glioma, astrocytoma, medulloblastoma, craniopharyngioma, ependymoma, pinealoma, hemangioblastoma, acoustic neuroma, oligodendroglioma, meningioma, neuroblastoma, retinoblastoma, myeloma, lymphoma, and leukemia.

33. A method of preventing or inhibiting entry of viral nucleic acid into the nucleus of a mammalian host cell, which comprises administering an effective amount of a substance exhibiting mammalian α_1-antitrypsin (AAT) or AAT-like activity to a mammalian host exposed or at risk of potential exposure to an agent of a viral infection that is mediated by endogenous host serine protease (SP) or SP-like activity.

34. A method of preventing or inhibiting the exit of a virion particle from a mammalian host cell harboring an agent of a viral infection that is mediated by endogenous host serine protease (SP) or SP-like activity, which comprises administering a pharmacologically effective amount of a substance exhibiting mammalian α_1-antitrypsin (AAT) or AAT-like activity to such a mammalian host.

35. A method of preventing a deficiency of functional endogenous AAT levels in a mammalian patient susceptible to a viral infection that is mediated by endogenous host serine protease (SP) or SP-like activity, which comprises administering to such a mammalian patient a therapeutically effective amount of a substance exhibiting mammalian α_1-antitrypsin (AAT) or AAT-like activity.

36. A pharmaceutical composition comprising effective amounts of a substance exhibiting mammalian α_1-antitrypsin (AAT) or AAT-like activity and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

37. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36 in which the substance comprises AAT.

38. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36 in which the substance comprises a peptide which exhibits AAT or AAT-like activity.

39. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36 in which the substance comprises a small molecule which exhibits AAT or AAT-like activity.

40. A method for treating HIV infection in a host harboring said HIV comprising administering to the host a therapeutically effective combination of at least one of the compounds exhibiting AAT or AAT-like activity and one or more compounds selected from a group consisting of HIV reverse transcriptase inhibitors and HIV protease inhibitors.

41. The method according to claim 40 wherein the reverse transcriptase inhibitor is selected from a group consisting of Retrovir, Combivir, Epivir, Videx, Hivid, Zerit, Ziagen, Hydrea, Viramune, Rescriptor, Sustiva, Preveon, and combination thereof.

42. The method according to claim 40 wherein the HIV protease inhibitor is selected

from a group consisting of Fortovase, Norvir, Crixivan, Viracept, Angenerase, VX-478, KNI-272, CGP-61755, U-103017, and combinations thereof.

43. A pharmaceutical composition for treating HIV in a human host comprising an antivirally effective amount of a substance with AAT-like activity and physiologically acceptable salts thereof as an active ingredient, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

44. A pharmaceutical composition for treating HIV in a human host comprising an antivirally effective amount of a peptide having a general formula: I-A-B-C-D-E-F-G-H-II, wherein I is Cys or absent; A is Ala, Gly, Val or absent; B is Ala, Gly, Val, Ser or absent; C is Ser, Thr or absent; D is Ser, Thr, Ans, Glu, Arg, Ile, Leu or absent; E is Ser, Thr, Asp or absent; F is Thr, Ser, Asn, Gln, Lys, Trp or absent; G is Tyr or absent; H is Thr, Gly, Met, Met(O), Cys, Thr or Gly;, and II is Cys, an amide group, substituted amide group, an ester group or absent, wherein the peptide comprises at least 4 amino acids and physiologically acceptable salts thereof as an active ingredient, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

45. A pharmaceutical composition for treating HIV in a human host comprising an antivirally effective amount of a compound mimicking AAT activity as an active ingredient, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.